



KLEINFELDER

An employee owned company

December 10, 2007

Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701
FAX: (775) 884-8376

RE: Public Comment regarding of the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the related Environmental Impact Statement and NEPA Scoping Process

Dear Mrs. DeCarlo:

I respectfully submit the following comments and questions for consideration and inclusion in the NEPA EIS Scoping process for the Bureau of Reclamation's Walker River Basin Acquisition Program as authorized by Congress (P.L. 109-103, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006, Section 208).

1) This project was originally developed with the intention of saving the ecosystem of Walker Lake from continued dessication and related lake water salinity increase, with the key species of concern being the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (at December, 2006 Stakeholders Meeting, Dr. Thomas, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), stated that the LCT fishery in Walker Lake would be saved by this program). In order to achieve this goal the salinity of the lake must be lowered to a level suitable for the natural survival and reproductive success of this species in the lake, and several fisheries reports indicate that a salinity of less than 10,000 mg/l TDS is a fundamental requirement (as reported by Dr. Thomas at the March, 2007 Stakeholders Meeting).

2) I am concerned by a comment I heard from a Bureau of Reclamation staff member at the Yerington scoping meeting in November, 2007 who dismissed the 10,000 mg/l TDS salinity goal by saying that the project is public law now and therefore will proceed because it is the law. This comment raises doubts about whether the project is actually dedicated to environmental

restoration, or is just a federal program for conversion of privately owned water rights to government-owned water rights in the name of environmental restoration without any clearly stated environmental goals or benchmarks. The law is written in broad and generalized language, but the history of efforts to restore a viable game fishery in Walker Lake suggests it intends to restore the LCT fishery. The Acquisition Program only states it is for “environmental restoration”; this could be interpreted in many ways. Therefore, the EIS should clearly explain the purpose of this Program, and it should include quantitative benchmarks that will be used to gauge the progress or performance of the Acquisition Program in the future.

3) The EIS should indicate how the proposed water rights Acquisition Program intends to achieve the general goal of restoring the LCT fishery, and what the salinity goal will be for Walker Lake.

4) The EIS should provide appropriate research and hydrological modeling to support a range of predictions for lake water quality through time under the several possible scenarios of water rights acquisitions, ranging from 15,000 AF up through 150,000 AF.

5) The EIS should present water quality predictions as graphs of water quality versus time, with a family of curves corresponding to a range of acquired water rights quantities, and clearly indicate how many years it will take to achieve an LCT fishery recovery under several scenarios. These graphs should include scientifically based error-bars to indicate the reasonable range of uncertainty of the predictions.

6) What will be the effect of the proposed water rights purchases on the value of such rights in a supply/demand market? What efforts will be made to ensure that willing sellers obtain a fair-market value for any water rights they offer for sale?

7) How will conveyance losses, such as infiltration and evapotranspiration from phreatophytes and wetlands, be quantified? The EIS should describe in detail how the hydrological models developed as part of this project (referred to as “Decision Support Tool”) will quantify these losses. To be rational and scientifically based, these water losses must be quantified with site-

specific, areally distributed, process-based modeling along the entire river and flood-plain between the points-of-diversion of acquired rights and the downstream lake. The ET processes operating in the Walker River reach running through the Walker Lake Paiute Reservation must be included. A scientifically based estimate of the Acquisition Program's effectiveness at converting irrigation water into Walker Lake water 60 miles down stream must be included in the EIS in order to permit independent review of the Program. Specifically, an estimate of the total losses from the pre-existing agricultural point-of-diversion to the lake, as a volume and a percentage, should be provided for all proposed water rights acquisitions, under various runoff conditions.

8) Northern Mason Valley forms a broad, topographically depressed floodplain with multiple braided stream channels . The proposed water rights acquisitions to convert irrigation water to in-stream flow will increase river discharge rate and hydro-period (stage and duration) of seasonal flooding over a large flood-plain. The EIS should provide a detailed assessment of how much of the acquired water rights will be lost to evapotranspiration as a result of the increase in floodplain hydro-period in areas not targeted as requiring "environmental restoration" (i.e. other than Walker Lake). Evapotranspiration flux will increase as river discharge increases due to increased flood-plain area, hydro-period and flood-plain bio-mass after several years of increased discharge. The existing river discharge database will have limited usefulness for quantifying these effects due to sample bias caused by the history of diversions that began prior to stream flow record keeping. Acquired water conveyance efficiency calculations must consider the negative feedbacks of flood-plain hydrology.

9) The EIS should provide an estimate of the ramifications of the altered hydro-period on invasive non-native plant species in northern Mason Valley and in the area between Schurz and Walker Lake that presently hosts a vigorous non-native plant community.

10) During the January 18, 2007 Board of Regents meeting, Dr. Thomas (UNR) stated that approximately 100,000 AF of water rights would have to be purchased in order to increase Walker Lake inflow by the 50,000 AF/Y necessary to lower lake salinity down to 10,000 mg/l TDS. Were these simply rough estimates or were they based on hydrological modeling? What

evapotranspiration (ET) loss rates were used to develop these estimates? Any supporting research or hydrological modeling should be presented in the EIS.

11) Evapotranspiration rates are the most fundamental element of the river, floodplain and lake water budget. A range of ET rates have been presented for Mason Valley, Walker Lake and various upstream plant communities, and recent USGS research has suggested a rate (6.0 ft/yr) nearly 50 percent greater than previously estimated (4.1 ft/yr) by Harding (1965). What ET rates will be used in the hydrological modeling planned as part of the "Decision Support Tool"? Detailed analysis and discussion of this critical parameter should be presented in the EIS.

12) If the USGS evaporation rate for Walker Lake proves to be 6.0 ft/year, it indicates that much more water reaches the Lake than the 76,000 AF/Y estimate by Thomas (1995). How does this previously undocumented inflow affect predictive lake water budget models? What are the implications of this inflow for reducing lake salinity through dilution? Does it change the previous estimate of 50,000 AF/Y by Dr. Thomas?

13) Instrumentation to help quantify ET rates has been installed near Walker Lake and upstream plant communities by the U.S. Geological Survey. However, the literature indicates that errors of up to +/- 40 percent are reported with the Bowens Ratio and Eddy Correlation methods. Further, even if a single point measurement is relatively accurate, a huge extrapolation is made converting the single point to the areally dispersed flux. Will calculations of the volume of water required to achieve the lake salinity goal attempt to quantify the error of estimated dispersed total flux as well as instrument error? How will this uncertainty affect the reliability of the required lake-inflow water volume estimate? The hydrological modeling should be presented with scientifically based estimates of error for the critical ET component.

14) Dr. Thomas has stated that 50,000 AF/Y is the required lake inflow increase to achieve the 10,000 mg/l TDS goal, and that 100,000 AF of water rights must be acquired to achieve this lake inflow increase. How was the 2:1 ratio for water rights acquisitions to lake inflow increases developed? This is similar to the ratios reported in the US BLM Draft EIS in 2001. What

hydrological analysis was used to generate these values and the apparent 2:1 ratio of acquired rights to lake inflow volume?

15) Several reputable sources indicate that it will be necessary to dilute Walker Lake down from the present 16,000 mg/l to 10,000 mg/l TDS in order to restore a viable LCT fishery. Therefore, if the Acquisition Program only succeeds to lowering lake salinity part of the way to the 10,000 mg/l goal, its goal of restoring the fishery will not be achieved, and in this most important respect it will fail. What provisions are to be set forth to handle the situation of a failed fishery restoration? What will be the disposition of the acquired water rights?

16) Will the acquired water rights remain as in-stream flow for wildlife into perpetuity? Will the acquired water rights be permanently and irrevocably used for wildlife, or might they at a later date be sold for other uses. What guarantees are provided that acquired rights won't be sold to municipal interests outside the Walker River Hydrological Basin?

17) In the future, if the acquired water rights are put on the market for sale, will they be sold only to agricultural interests in the valley's from which they were purchased?

18) If climate change continues the present trend of declining precipitation in the Walker River basin headwaters, the Acquisition Program will fail to restore the LCT fishery. Under these conditions the acquired water rights could be sold and converted to other beneficial uses. If the acquired water rights are sold back to the private market, they must be sold "at cost" for the same amount as they were acquired plus inflation, or the government would be in competition with private interests. In the interests of the traditional and well-established agricultural economy of the affected region, the farming community should be given a right of first refusal.

19) The Bureau of Reclamation/UNR Walker River Basin Program is based on the assumption that future weather conditions will be similar to past weather conditions. Taking into consideration the evidence that indicates global warming, does UNR intend to include climate change as a basic input to its hydrological models of the water volume necessary to achieve the LCT fishery restoration?

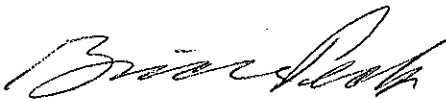
20) The Bureau of Reclamation/UNR Walker River Basin Program intends to acquire between 50,000 and up to 150,000 AF of water rights to achieve its stated salinity requirement. What is the probability that UNR will find this quantity of water rights and willing sellers? What will be the economic impact to the agricultural economy of the Mason Valley and Smith Valley? What will be the impact on land values when the water rights are permanently removed?

21) The EIS must address the impact of a general reduction of flood irrigation on groundwater levels in the valley, and the potential for adverse impacts to private, domestic water supply wells, particularly along the margins of the valley. A significant decrease in distributed flood irrigation and increases in supplemental groundwater pumping as canal systems become less well maintained or unserviceable through reduced use, maintenance and conveyance efficiency, will cause groundwater levels to decline in non-floodplain areas. Will the Acquisition Program monitor groundwater levels in vulnerable areas and provide funding to pay for the deepening or replacement of domestic wells if they are demonstrably impacted and go dry?

22) The hydrological model used in the Bureau of Reclamation/UNR Walker River Basin Program must include a statement of the level of total uncertainty of its water volume calculations, quantified in terms of probability distribution or confidence interval.

Sincerely,

KLEINFELDER WEST, INC.



Brian Peck, P.G., C.H.G.
Senior Hydrogeologist

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: James R Perry
Affiliation (if any): Developer
Street Address: 253 Hurry 95th
City, State, Zip: Yerington NV Date: 894417

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

I say that the Scale you printed
is sadly lacking in history; also Walker
lake had 2 rivers the Carson + Walker when
the Dead Canal Range Erupted it moved the
carson leaving only One River. So Bad a clue
Walker Lake is Dead. over

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

PS. Water Rights is now bad law
having then is over but it will create
water, So look for a real solution and
look to land with abundance like the
Pacific North west - Note IF we can
pump oil across Alaska maybe we could
pump from the land of plenty Dub?

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Return Address:

James Perry
253 Hwy 95 N North
Yerington NV 89447

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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Mrs.
Name: Pauline J. Plett

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 411 Pearl St

City, State, Zip: Yerington, NV. 89447

Date: Oct 24, 2007

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

A few fish and wildlife are not as important as the
livelihood of hundreds of families. Who is going to re-pay
homeowners and farmers who have purchased land and property
only to have its value stripped away by this plan. There
will probably be lawsuits about this problem in the future.
Another thought is the land of Nevada has lost lots of

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

lakes in past years - they have just dried up. What is to say that in the future after acquiring water and putting it in Walker lake it turns out to be just a band-aid and the lake dries up anyway. Our town and Smith Valley will be ruined for nothing and all these people will have to move to some other overpopulated city that is also out of water. Like Atlanta Georgia. I can't understand why Reno and Las Vegas keep building as if there is no problem. I believe the cities should stop putting in more and more big water users (casinos etc.) and take care of the population they already have. I am really disappointed in ^{Senator} Harry Reid and the U.S. Dept of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

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Return Address:

Mrs Pauline Plett
41 Pearl St.
Verington, NV, 89447

RENO NV 895

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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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OCT 30 2007

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Lahontan Basin Area Office

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: WALTER G PLETT
Affiliation (if any): _____
Street Address: 411 PEARL ST
City, State, Zip: YERINGTON NV Date: 10-29-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

We believe taking the Water
out of Mason Valley and Smith
Valley is ~~is~~ foolish and doesn't
make any sense. You are drying
up 2 beautiful Valleys, trying to

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

save one salty dead lake which
is going to dry up anyway, like
other lakes in Nevada. When the
water flows towards the lake a lot evaporates
and much of it sinks into the ground.
What a waste for a limited resource,
when that water could be used to support
many families and grow a lot of
produce and feed many people, all
in an effort to save a few half dead
fish and make 5 or 6 fishermen happy!!!

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Return Address:



Walter Plett
411 Pearl St.
Yerington, NV 89447

RENO NV 895

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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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Lahontan Basin Area Office

OCT 30 2007

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89701-3060



Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

December 3, 2007

3-0607 4-8352
Re: Walker River Basin Project

I am writing regarding the impact the WALKER RIVER BASIN PROJECT would have on Mason and Smith Valleys. The 2002 Farm Bill addressed desert terminal lakes, but left out any mention of purchasing or leasing water rights, but Senator Reid changed that in the appropriations bill to include water right purchases from willing sellers. Reid also seems to have a conflict of interest by giving UNR the money to purchase water rights and also conducting the environmental impact study. He certainly does not seem to have the interests of citizens of these valleys in mind. Even though sellers provide water, there is no certainty that 50,000 acre feet will ever reach the terminal desert lake Walker. Evaporation would greatly affect this outcome. The farmers may not always be allocated their total allowance due to dry years.

Jim Sanford has informed us for several weeks in great detail concerning this Project in articles in The Mason Valley News. This has been so helpful. He named alternatives for procuring water from Whiskey Flat, Cottonwood Creek, and near Schurz. Whiskey Flat Ranch water rights were for sale around 1994-95. Senator Reid did not pursue this.

Most importantly, the economic impact upon these valleys if water rights are sold are: The farming and ranching lifestyles of these valleys would literally dry up. The loss of irrigation water would impact the domestic wells, reducing groundwater. Flora and fauna next to the river would be seriously affected. The loss of the farming and ranching communities would impact other businesses and the labor pool, ultimately decreasing the tax base. Should Mason and Smith Valleys sacrifice their social and economic lifestyles in order to try to save a terminal desert lake when there is no way of knowing how much water would reach the lake? 20,000 acres in Lyon and Douglas Counties turned to dust is not justified in order to attempt to save a desert terminal lake. I ASK YOU FOR A FAIR, UNBIASED, SCIENTIFIC, AND COMPREHENSIVE EIS.

James D. Price *David D. Price*
For Marketing: 707 Ray Lane
Lit Wellington NV 89444

COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY (EIS) TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR) REGARDING THE WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM FROM Richard and Georgia Fulstone, Smith Valley, Nevada

The BOR should consider preparing an EIS for all of Section 208 not just limiting itself to Title II, A 1 & 2.

The scope of your EIS includes research, restoration and education.

1. Research for alternative methods should be included because alternative methods will contribute to the restoration of Walker Lake.

- A. Alternative methods include ground water in the Whiskey Flats and Rawhide Flats areas. These basins do not recharge to the Walker River Basin drainage, therefore they should be looked at. Groundwater within the Walker River Basin should not be considered.
- B. Water from Cottonwood Canyon off of Mt. Grant should be considered available water for Walker Lake.
- C. Geothermal effluent from Wabuska should be considered.
- D. Desalination plant at Walker Lake should be considered because it is an alternate water method that will insure the longevity and permanence of lower TDS levels in the lake.
- E. Cloud Seeding is a viable alternative method to help increase water to Walker Lake.
- F. Water Leasing from upstream is an innovative agriculture conservation program that will provide environmental restoration for the lake.
- G. Channel restoration is a viable alternative to increasing river efficiency and will restore fish and wildlife habitat.
- H. Enhancing the oxygen in Walker Lake by oxygenation should be considered as restoration for the lake.

As stated in Section 208 of the law, these alternative methods must be considered in your analysis.

In addition, the acquisition program must include California even though the law specifically states that it must be from Nevada because all storage water is permitted in California. Therefore California must be included and a SEQUA analysis must also be done to cover the storage waters permitted in California and delivered in Nevada. Otherwise your only opportunity to purchase water will be from Decreed Water Right holders, excluding their supplemental storage.

COMMENTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY (EIS) TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (BOR) REGARDING THE WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM FROM Richard and Georgia Fulstone, Smith Valley, Nevada

The Walker Basin runs from the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains down to a TERMINAL Walker Lake which has been drying up since the end of the last ice age. It has dried up completely several times before during other dry periods. So IF the drying up of the terminal lake is a basin wide problem why are you ONLY trying to acquire water rights from the middle section (ie. Smith and Mason Valleys)? I have been told that there is nothing in Senator Harry Reid's acquisition Bill which required you to limit your purchasing.

In "robbing Peter to pay Paul" do you honestly believe that 50-100,000 acre feet of water will save Walker Lake when it EVAPORATES 150,000 acre feet of water each year? How long will it be before you are back again seeking more water from upstream water users?

With this said, when you buy water from Smith and Mason Valleys, have you considered the water losses and extra costs to the remaining water holders in the ditches? Are you going to pay your fair share of the ditch costs and water losses for ever?

What plans do you have to mitigate for weeds, soil erosion, blowing sand, dust etc from the property which you have removed the water from?

How are you going to compensate for the loss of property values from the remaining farmers and home property owners? Are you going to pay property taxes, for how long and for how much to the County on the property you have purchased?

Why hasn't the U.S. Government (Hawthorne Ammunition Depot) offered their water?

Why aren't other water sources and/or aquifers closer to the lake being considered (ie. Schurz Indian Reservation, Whiskey Flats and the valley to the east of Walker Lake)?

Is the Nevada Fish and Game Water being considered for part of the 50,000 acre feet?

Smith and Mason Valleys represent some of the best agricultural land in Nevada from a limited amount. Why destroy this economic plus for Nevada and Lyon County?

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Lahontan Basin Area Office

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: TOM PRICE

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 727 Hwy 339

City, State, Zip: YERINGTON, NV 89447 Date: 11/16/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

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Walker River Water Acquisition

The Bureau of Reclamation is currently preparing to implement a program to buy water rights in the Walker River Basin for the purpose of sending additional water to Walker Lake. The program has its origins in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2006 (Section 208). Early propaganda on the program suggests they want to buy about 50,000 acre feet of water rights, but a more careful analysis of their statements indicate they want to deliver that amount of additional water to Walker Lake. They will have to buy considerably more water in order to do that. 50,000 acre feet is a lot of water and a very noticeable percentage of the water used along the river basin. Its loss will definitely affect agriculture in the basin. The originating legislation (Section 208) makes no mention of the impossible dream of "Saving Walker Lake" or of the amount of water necessary to attempt it. The legislation refers only to increasing the water flows to Walker Lake.

The next step in implementing the purchase program is to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Before the EIS can be written it is necessary to define the goals of the program. Scientific studies can be conducted to analyze the impact of removing water from the basin. But without a clear statement of what is being attempted, it is impossible to evaluate what amount of water will be necessary. The originating legislation for this program does not require 50,000 acre feet of water (or any other amount of water) only increasing the water flows. That huge amount of water is only justified by referencing a twelve year old study of water levels and water quality of Walker Lake. According to the study, that amount of water might be enough to begin to raise the water level of the lake and bring a temporary improvement in water quality. Is raising the level of water in the lake a goal of the program? Where did that goal come from? -- not Section 208.

Slowing down the death of Walker Lake by delivering more water will be a long term project. The EIS must address the not only immediate efforts to deliver water to the lake but the efforts to sustain that delivery. Current efforts to control tamarisk and improve water delivery will require constant effort. This long term cost cannot be ignored in evaluating this program.

A recent release by the Bureau of Reclamation says they will not consider alternative suggestions (such as desalination) for aiding Walker Lake. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (which requires that the EIS be done) specifically requires that "alternatives to the proposed action" be included in every recommendation. The inadequacies of the written legislation are no excuse for ignoring consideration of alternatives.

There is no legislated mandate to "Save Walker Lake" or even raise its water level. The Bureau of Reclamation has no right to assume there is when they define the scope of the EIS.

Tom Price
Mason Valley



Agriculture in Mason and Smith Valleys is a very dynamic industry. In evaluating the effect of water removal from this area you can not base your calculations on stagnant historic data. Production from five years ago does not fairly represent current production and current trends suggest that production will continue to change. Far more acres are in production today than five years ago and the crops being raised are changing also. One of the primary changes that has taken place over the past few years is the increased labor necessary to produce the newer crops. Removal or restriction of these crops hence has a much greater ripple effect on the local economy.

The effect of any water loss to this area will have a long term effect on agricultural production. The impact analysis must consider the projected agricultural use of the land, including the complication of the necessary crop rotations and of course the ripple effect on local economy. Reduced agriculture will greatly affect businesses like implement dealers, grocery stores, hay haulers and repair services.

At the other end of this project (Walker Lake) the impact study must show some gain. Clearly Mason and Smith Valleys will be negatively affected both economically and environmentally. How much of the water will be lost on its trip to Walker Lake? Increasing the amount of water in the lake will probably increase the size and hence increase evaporation as well as ground percolation. Of course, more river water also brings more contaminants (minerals and salts). The lake can not be saved by adding more river water. The EIS must define what is being attempted. What is a "useful" state for the lake? How long will this process prolong a "useful" life for the lake. What will be the positive effect gained down stream? What will be the economic gains that will offset the economic losses?

The EIS must clearly define what can be achieved and must clearly show the long term costs and gains from attempting this project.

TOM PRICE

727 Hwy 339

YERINGTON

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Tom Price
727 Hwy 339
Yerington, NV 89447

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mrs. Hunt DeCarlo:

The scoping meeting for the Walker River Acquisition Program that the Bureau of Reclamation hosted in Yerington on Oct. 23 was extremely disappointing because of the incomplete information presented. Walker Lake is a terminal lake. It cannot be saved by adding water to it. Adding water will only prolong its death throes. This has nothing to do with agriculture or any other human activity. It is purely a result of the geology of the region. The display on water levels was totally incomplete. The lake level has been dropping for centuries, not just since agricultural irrigation has been influencing it. Your agency is supposed to be representing all parties. We deserve the whole truth, not the one sided presentation we were given.

The suggested amount of 50,000 acre feet of water for the lake is another place where the presentation lacked any usefulness or creditability. How much of our currently used water is being requested? How much of that water would actually reach the Lake if it were not used productively as it presently is? How much effect would that amount of water have on Walker Lake? How long would it extend the current level of life for the Lake? Hopefully some of these questions will be researched further as part of the ongoing studies for this program, but there is already much information known, it was very relevant to that meeting and should have been presented. Is 50,000 acre feet a randomly chosen number or is there some reasonable explanation for its choice?

The people of Mason Valley and Smith Valley deserved a better presentation. The whole truth might not benefit some party's plans, but your job is to represent all parties. The Bureau of Reclamation should do another presentation before the EIS study proceeds. This time let us know what is really going on.

Sincerely,


Tom Price

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NOV 08 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Judith Price
Affiliation (if any): Resident Mason Valley
Street Address: 727 Hwy 339
City, State, Zip: Yerington, NV 89447 Date: 11/16/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

I am concerned that this issue be
decided on its merits and not as a political
issue. "Saving Walker Lake" is a rallying
call. I need to see scientific data to
support this as a reasonable course.
I do not believe that this data is

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

available or else ^{has not been} shared to with valley residents. I object to giving water to the lake without scientific data to support its worth. Walker Lake may by nature be a dead lake and reviving it may be hazardous to the area.

PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

727 Hwy 339
Yerington, NV 89447

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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DEC 10 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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Ellen Unsworth

From: Caryn HuntDeCarlo [CHUNTTDECARLO@mp.usbr.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 11:34 AM
To: Ellen Unsworth; Russell Grimes; Carol Grenier; Karen_Grillo@nshe.nevada.edu
Subject: Fwd: Walker River Basin Acquisitions Program EIS

>>> <Purrellranch@cs.com> 10/25/2007 6:06:18 PM >>>

COMMENTS: The loss of 50,000 a.f. + of surface water to the Walker River irrigation distribution system will further affect the environment of a multitude of upstream wildlife some of which remain on the federal threatened watch list i.e. the Perigren Falcon and the sage grouse. Both of which have been

established as using the basin's irrigated habitat creating the sedges, grasses, insects and rodents these and many other species depend on.

In the last 30 years we have had to have one domestic well casing re-drilled that was originally 30 ft depth. (pump set at 15 ft.) to a 120 ft casing (pump set at 90 ft) to compensate for the loss of the original 38 inch water table and today's draw down when the pump is activated. We have another 148 ft deep domestic casing that has had to have the pump lowered twice in the past fifteen years from the original 30ft to 60ft and now at 90ft to offset the continued falling draw down requirements. This lack of ground water recharge has been created by a number of things. Prior and ongoing government cost share water conservation programs that has altered the original earth distribution systems to concrete and pipe. Drought and climate change and the subsequent requirement for those farmers and ranchers who have the privilege of irrigation wells to over use the original intent of their State permits, to make up for the existing lack of surface water that already exists. The last report I read, indicated there is in excess of 80,000 a.f. ground water being pumped in these dry years with a recharge of around 18,000 a. f. The environmental impact from declining ground water, to domestic wells and native cottonwood's and willows and the impact to wildlife has already started.

Depending on which report you read, walker lake evaporation varies. However, they all seem to agree there is in excess of 150,000 a. f. of evaporation occurring from walker lake annually. It isn't brain surgery to know that anything less than lake evaporation is only going to prolong the agony. Walker Lakes future is in god's hands not Harry Reids.

We have been told that Mount Grant's water shed would be included in the acquisition program. The EIS needs to include the Mount Grant watershed for both the Army and Counties benefit.

We have watched the Walker Lake fishery go from 30 lb + cutthroat to a 1 1/2

lb hatchery strain of fish that has been planted on an annual put and take program for over 20 years. Name another threatened and endangered species with pure genetics that is managed in this manner?

Both my wife's and my families are each from three generations of Mineral and Lyon counties who have enjoyed the shores of Walker Lake and the fruits of agriculture. This EIS comes down to recreation vs food production because the impact to wildlife and native vegetation will be a wash. Upstream enviromental damage is certain and the downstream damage will remain, with the quantities of water being discussed. </HTML>

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name:

JAY RECANZONE

Affiliation (if any):

Street Address:

34 Poplar

City, State, Zip:

VERMINGTON NV 89447

Date: 10-24-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

SCOPE - to look at or examine is one definition of scope extent or range of view is another. According to the first we were given nothing to examine or review except what has been decided according to the second the range of

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

view is exceedingly narrow. appearing
to be we have a mission and we will
accomplish it - thanks for the cookies.

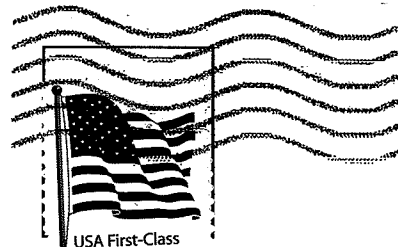
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

J. R. Canyon
34 Poplar
Hemington NV
89447

RENO NV 895

24 OCT 2007 PM 1 T



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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OCT 25 2007

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Lahontan Basin Area Office

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: REX REILAND

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 2 PELICAN LN

City, State, Zip: VERMILION NV. 89447 Date: 10/30/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

1- YOU CAN NOT SAVE A TERMINAL LAKE,
THE SOLIDS IN SUSPENSION WILL ONLY INCREASE
IN TIME NO MATTER HOW MUCH WATER FLOWS
TO THE LAKE, ONLY REMOVING WATER WILL SAVE
THE LAKE FROM SALTING UP -

2- THIS IS A NATURAL PROCESS / MAN SHOULD LET
NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE - ITS ALREADY HAPPENED TWICE
IN THE LAST 10,000 YEARS - IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN -
LEAVE IT ALONE -

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

Handwritten address lines (faint and mostly illegible).

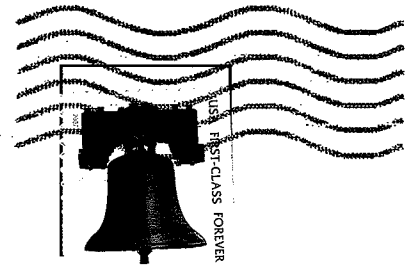
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

R. Reiland
2 Pelican Ln.
Yerington NV 89447

RENO NV 895

05 NOV 2007 PM 1 L



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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NOV 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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DATE: 11-27-07

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: WALKER RIVER PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo,

Attached, please find my comments regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement.

_____, I request that personal identifying information which is included on this cover page, or in my attached comments, be withheld.

_____, I understand that my personal identifying information included on this cover page, or in my attached comments may be shared through the public review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

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DEC 07 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EIS should explain what purpose the proposed action serves. Has enough research been performed that would allow the conclusion that the water rights acquisition program would actually result in the legislatively stated and intended environmental consequence, which is environmental restoration?

The legislation provides for acquisition of lands, water appurtenant to those lands, and related rights in Walker River Basin, Nevada. The Bureau of Reclamation public information release suggests that the legislation must be read as limiting acquisition of water rights to acquisition of Nevada water rights. However, the legislation speaks to environmental restoration of the entire Walker River Basin. How is this to be accomplished for the Walker River Basin lands in California?

If the legislation restricts the purchase of water rights to Nevada water rights, the purchased rights may not include storage rights, as the storage rights for the reservoirs are entitled through State of California permits. The EIS need to address this issue in its analysis of those rights intended for purchase that will be determined to be most beneficial.

Section 208 of Public Law 109-103 (2005) provided "for the acquisition from willing sellers land, water appurtenant to the land, and related interests with funds made available under Section 2507." The scoping materials appear to limit the EIS to an analysis of Section (a) (1) (A). The failure to include the following sections of the law must be addressed in the EIS:

- (a) the provisions for funding of tamarisk eradication, riparian area restoration, and channel restoration efforts within the Walker River Basin, and the assessment of which activities will result in the greatest increased water flow; and
- (b) the interests to be acquired must be most beneficial to the establishment and operation of the agricultural research center, as well as to the environmental restoration of Walker River Basin (Sec. 208 (a)(2)(A)).

The Purpose and Need Statement presented during the scoping process was limited to activities identified in Sec. 208 (a) only. It ignored Sec. 208 (c)(1), which provides additional funding for channel restoration and tamarisk eradication. Given the recognized difficulties in delivering any purchased or otherwise acquired water to Walker Lake, the EIS should address why this important legislation was omitted from the EIS.

The EIS should address what criterion and methodology will be used to determine successful compliance with the legislation. The EIS should identify the criterion to be used to assess effective environmental restoration.

What is the scope of the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS? Despite the statement made by the Bureau of Reclamation in its Extension of Scoping Comment Period notice that other options of providing water to Walker Lake will *not* be analyzed in detail in the EIS, the Council on Environmental Quality suggests that alternatives outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency *must* still be analyzed in the EIS, if they are reasonable. Therefore, discussions of all alternatives need to be included in the EIS.

The EIS should identify and evaluate alternative methods for achieving environmental restoration to all or a portion of Walker Lake.

Is the goal of the proposed action to merely convey additional water to Walker Lake, or is the goal to restore fish habitat? If the latter, is there an inherent conflict between the environmental consequences of restoring wildlife (wetlands) habitat and the stated purpose of the legislation, to provide more water to Walker Lake?

The Purpose and Need Statement suggests that the purpose of the acquisition program is to provide water to Walker Lake so as to implement federal statutes. What rational basis exists for providing water to Walker Lake when the data currently available suggests that the goal of the legislation, restoring Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health, cannot be met through the addition of 50,000 acre-feet per year?

The EIS should assess the adequacy of the amount proposed for purchase given scientific reports which suggest that before meaningful steps may be taken toward environmental restoration of Walker Lake an initial increase in lake volume of 700,000 acre-feet would be required. (Thomas, 1965).

The EIS should analyze the actual goal to be achieved by the proposed action, i.e., the water acquisition program, given the lack of solid science to support the likelihood that the purchased water will have a positive effect on Walker Lake or Walker Basin environmental restoration.

The EIS must address the cumulative impacts on junior appropriators if the water is transferred to instream uses: Nevada state law precludes the transfer of water rights if junior water rights holders will sustain injury as a result of the transfer. How does the Bureau intend to address this issue, given the foreseeable impact of the transfer of 50,000 acre-feet/year, or more, on junior water users in the Walker River Basin?

The EIS should comment on alternative actions for insuring large quantities of water will not be lost in the area between the Wabuska Gage and Weber Reservoir and between Schurz to Walker Lake, given the meandering nature of the river bed.

The EIS must include an evaluation of the evapotranspiration rate at various points along the Walker River, including within the Walker River Indian Reservation area, and alternatives for decreasing the rate.

In assessing the proposed and alternative actions, consideration must be given to the potential conflict between the goal of the legislation and the United States' responsibility as trustee for the Walker River Indian Reservation lands. An increase in inflows into Walker Lake may require modification of the river channel. Environmental justice and sovereignty issues must be analyzed.

Will the EIS address the impact of Nevada Federal District Court Case C-125 B on the proposed acquisition of water rights, given the Tribe's and United States' claims to priority rights on the Walker River for reservation purposes? How can the acquisition program move forward when the status of water rights on the Walker River is subject to modification?

The Walker River Paiute Tribe is a sovereign nation, how is that being addressed? Will the Tribe allow the water to go through the reservation? If so, can this be guaranteed?

Has the United States considered entering into an enforceable agreement with the Tribe to ensure water will pass through the reservation lands?

Has the United States investigated the water use within the reservation to determine if the Tribe is storing water without a valid water right or permit? If so, what is going to be done with this illegal water use within the reservation to ensure the program is not negatively impacted?

DATE: 11-27-07

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: **WALKER RIVER PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo,

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_____, I understand that my personal identifying information included on this cover page, or in my attached comments may be shared through the public review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

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DEC 07 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The scoping materials suggest that an increase in annual inflows to Walker Lake by approximately 50,000 acre-feet will help restore Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health. If alternative proposals relating to quantity of water required to achieve environmental restoration were suggested by the research, then the EIS should comment on why other alternative estimates were not selected.

What is the total quantity of water rights, i.e. acre-feet, that will have to be purchased to comply with the purpose of the Desert Terminal Lakes Act, P.L. 170, Sec. 2507, and how was this figure determined?

In the analysis of the proposed action, the EIS must provide information regarding the basis for the selection of a particular methodology for calculating the total quantity of water that must flow past Wabuska Gage to enable delivery of an increase in annual inflows of 50,000 acre-feet of water to Walker Lake. Additionally, information needs to be provided regarding what other alternatives were evaluated and the basis for their rejection.

The EIS should contain information regarding the priority and duty of water rights that have been or are being acquired by the program.

The EIS should analyze how the acquired water rights will be quantified as in-stream rights. Will the purchases be limited to surface rights?

The information from the scoping meetings relating to the Administrative Draft EIS, prepared by the Bureau of Land Management in 2001, indicated that successful infusion of water into Walker Lake would require a pulse of hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water before the proposed additional amounts would result in remediation of Walker Lake's condition. Please address how this is to be accomplished.

Obtaining the needed water volume for instream flow will require more than twice the nominal water rights (100,000 to 200,000 AF) identified in the scoping information depending on water right type, priority date and point of diversion within Mason or Smith Valley. The EIS should comment on the likelihood of obtaining this quantity of water rights to achieve the required increased flow.

The EIS should comment on the extent to which it will incorporate information from the Bureau of Land Management's Administrative Draft EIS (2001), and what weight the information found in this document will be given. (*See Exhibit 1 Attached: copy of the EIS cover page.*) Why wasn't the 2001 EIS published?

Was any pre-program analysis done to assess the likelihood that the program will be able to locate willing sellers in sufficient numbers to achieve the goal of increasing freshwater inflows to Walker Lake so as to achieve environmental restoration?

TOM REVIGLIO

Comments to Ealker River Basin Acquisition Program and EIS

November 27, 2007

Page 2

The EIS should comment on alternative actions for insuring large quantities of water will not be lost in the area between the Wabuska Gage and Weber Reservoir and between Schurz to Walker Lake, given the meandering nature of the river bed. (*See Exhibit 2 Attached: photographs.*)

The EIS must include an evaluation of the evapotranspiration rate at various points along the Walker River, including within the Walker River Indian Reservation area, and alternatives for decreasing the rate.

The EIS must include an evaluation of the evapotranspiration rate at various points along the Walker River, and alternatives for decreasing the evapotranspiration rate, particularly in the Wabuska Drain and the area between Schurz and Walker Lake.

In assessing the proposed and alternative actions, consideration must be given to the potential conflict between the goal of the legislation, and the United States' responsibility as trustee for the Walker River Indian Reservation lands. An increase in inflows into Walker Lake may require modification of the river channel. Environmental justice and sovereignty issues must be analyzed.

Will the EIS address the impact of Nevada Federal District Court, Case C-125 B, on the proposed acquisition of water rights, given the Tribe's and United States' claims to priority rights on the Walker River for reservation purposes? How can the acquisition program move forward when the status of water rights on the Walker River is subject to modification?

Who will be responsible for protecting the purchased water rights in the litigation under case C-125 B? Will these water rights be adequately protected in case the acquisition program fails and water rights revert back to agriculture use?

The *Memorandum for General Counsels, NEPA Liaisons, and Participants in Scoping*, published by the Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, suggests that a post-scoping document be made available to the public. This proposal is particularly appropriate when scoping has been conducted by written comments. Will such a document be made available to those who commented, as well as those who participated in the scoping presentations?

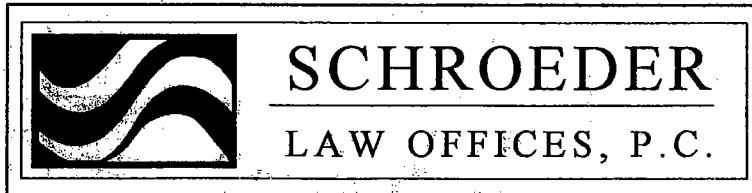
What is University of Nevada at Reno's (UNR) involvement in the Program and EIS Process? Doesn't UNR have a conflict of interest in all the research and studies since they will be facilitating the purchase of the water?

It is understood that the University of Nevada at Reno (UNR) is receiving funding through Public Law 108-7, Sec. 207 and Public Law 109-103, Sec. 208 for the acquisition program and to establish an agricultural and natural resource center, the mission of which is to undertake research, restoration and education in the Walker River Basin. The University is charged with making the acquisitions, and the Bureau is charged with analyzing the proposed action. What type of analysis will be performed by the Bureau to insure that the research that is being funded through this program will be objective, and not biased in favor of the proposed action, given the University's vested interest in maintaining this program?

Laura A. Schroeder
Licensed in Oregon, Idaho,
Nevada and Washington

V. Scott Borison, Ph.D.
Certified Legal Manager

Daryl N. Cole
Office Manager



Lynn L. Steyaert
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

Cortney D. Duke
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

Colm Moore
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

Therese A. Ure
Licensed in Nevada

Wyatt E. Rolfe
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

January 9, 2008

VIA US MAIL

Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701

COPY

RE: Errata for Scoping Comments

Dear Caryn:

We have identified two errata in the scoping comments forwarded to you by this office. The first is found on page 1 of the scoping comments made by Tom Reviglio, dated November 27, 2007 and on page 6 of the scoping comments made by Beverly and Joseph G. Landolt, November 28, 2007.


Reference was made to the Desert Terminal Lakes Act as P.L. 170, Sec. 2507. The correct reference should be P.L. 170-171, Sec. 2507.

The second is located in the Schroeder Law Offices, P.C., letter dated December 7, 2007. The photographs that were attached to the comments were identified on page 6 as being dated 1938 and 2002. The dates are more correctly identified as 1938 and 2000. The photographs themselves correctly reflect the date of their origin.

Please incorporate these changes in the identified scoping comments. If you have any questions, I may be reached at (503) 281-4100.

Very truly yours,

SCHROEDER LAW OFFICES, P.C.


Lynn L. Steyaert

ELS:tjj

cc: Clients

phone 503-281-4100

fax 503-281-4600

1915 NE 39th Avenue, P.O. Box 12527, Portland, Oregon 97212-0527

www.water-law.com

RECEIVED

JAN 14 2008

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Piedmont Basin Area Office

CODE	PERSON RESP	INITIAL & DATE
100		
101		
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800		
900		
650	*	1/14/08

USGS FIGURES

An average of:

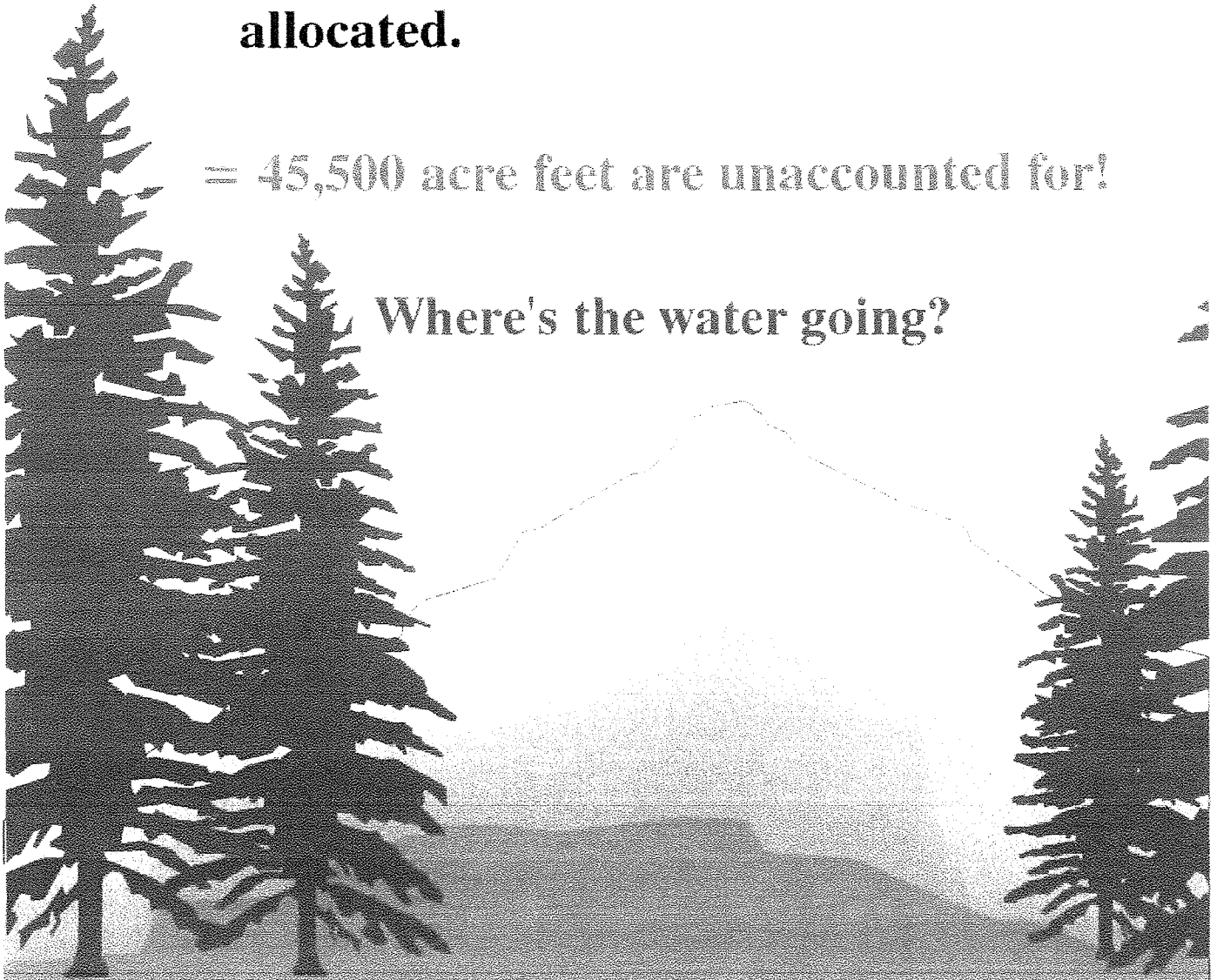
125,000 acre feet of water pass through the
Wabuska gauge each year an 80 year
period.

-70,000 acre feet end up in Walker Lake.

- 9,500 acre feet Walker River Paiute Tribe are
allocated.

= 45,500 acre feet are unaccounted for!

Where's the water going?



chan-nel 1. a natural or artificial course for running water , a part of a river or harbor where the water is deeper than the water on either side.

levee *n.* an embankment built to prevent a river from over flowing.

After reviewing the arial photos of "1938" and comparing them to the photos of "2000" you will find a definate change in the channel. It is by far larger.

The breaking down of the levee may be caused in part by grazing cattle.

Will this channel / levee be repaired?

See Attached Exhibit 2.

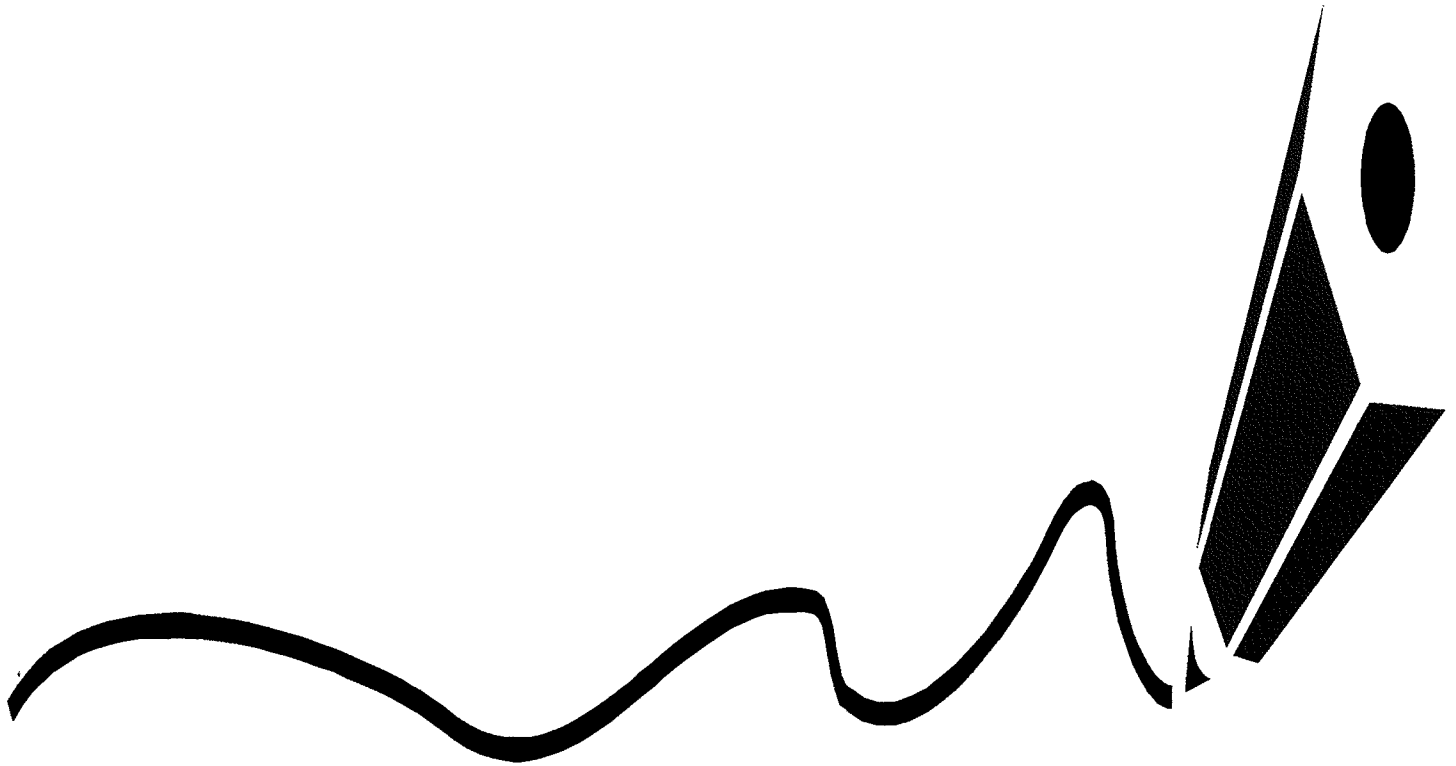


Where is the unaccounted for water per USGS figures?

Show me the channel/levee from Wabuska to Weber and from Weber to Walker Lake and will it be repaired?

Will you be using information from the "2000" Draft EIS?

Will more water "save" Walker Lake?



**Is there a plan to use any of the
information in the U.S.**

**Department of the Interior Bureau
of Land Management
Environmental Impact Statement?**

DRAFT

Dated: December 2001

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Administrative Draft
Environmental Impact Statement
for the**

Walker River Basin Project

DRAFT

Prepared by

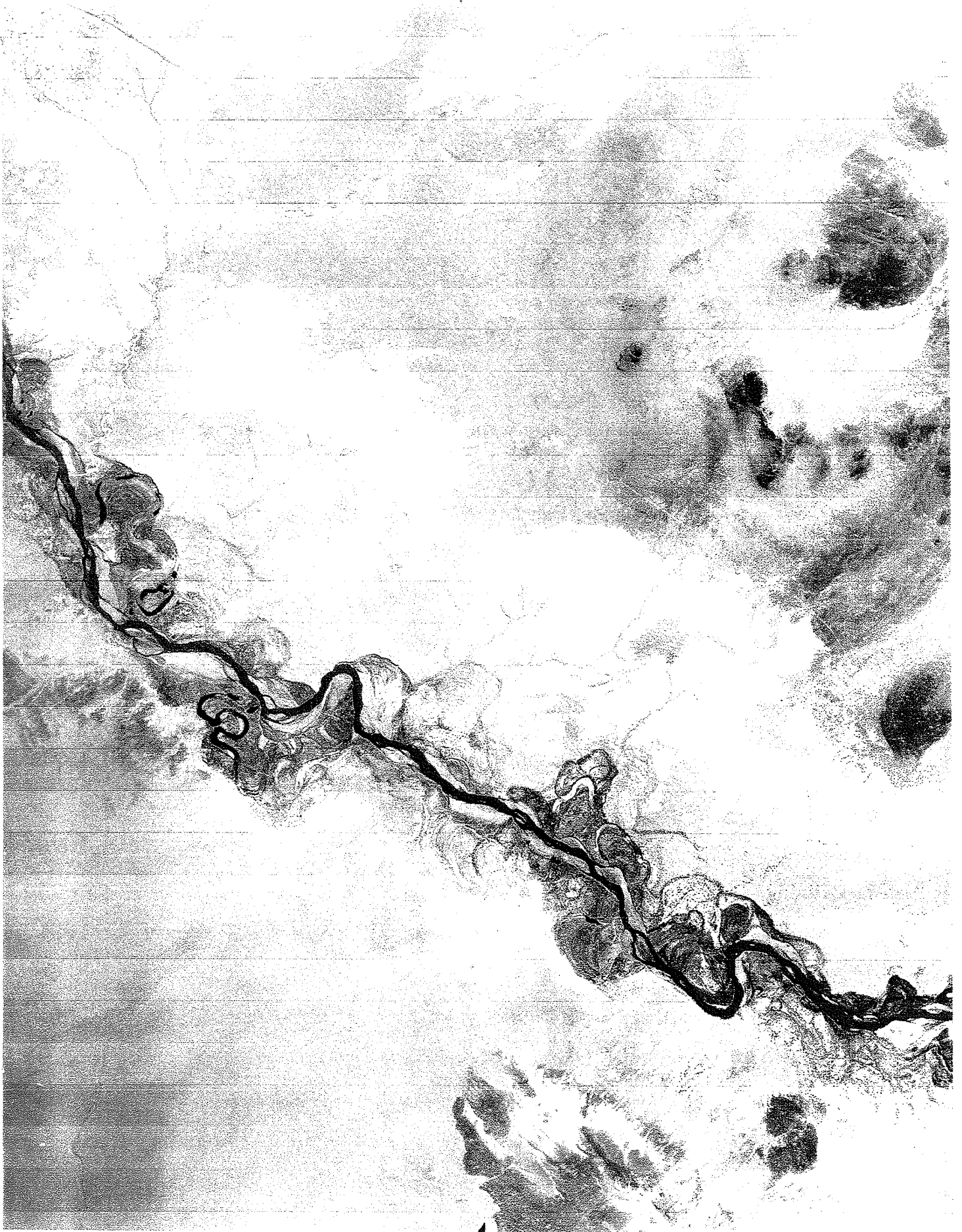
**Not for
Public Release**
Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office
Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Projects Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Nevada District
Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

And

Cooperating Agencies

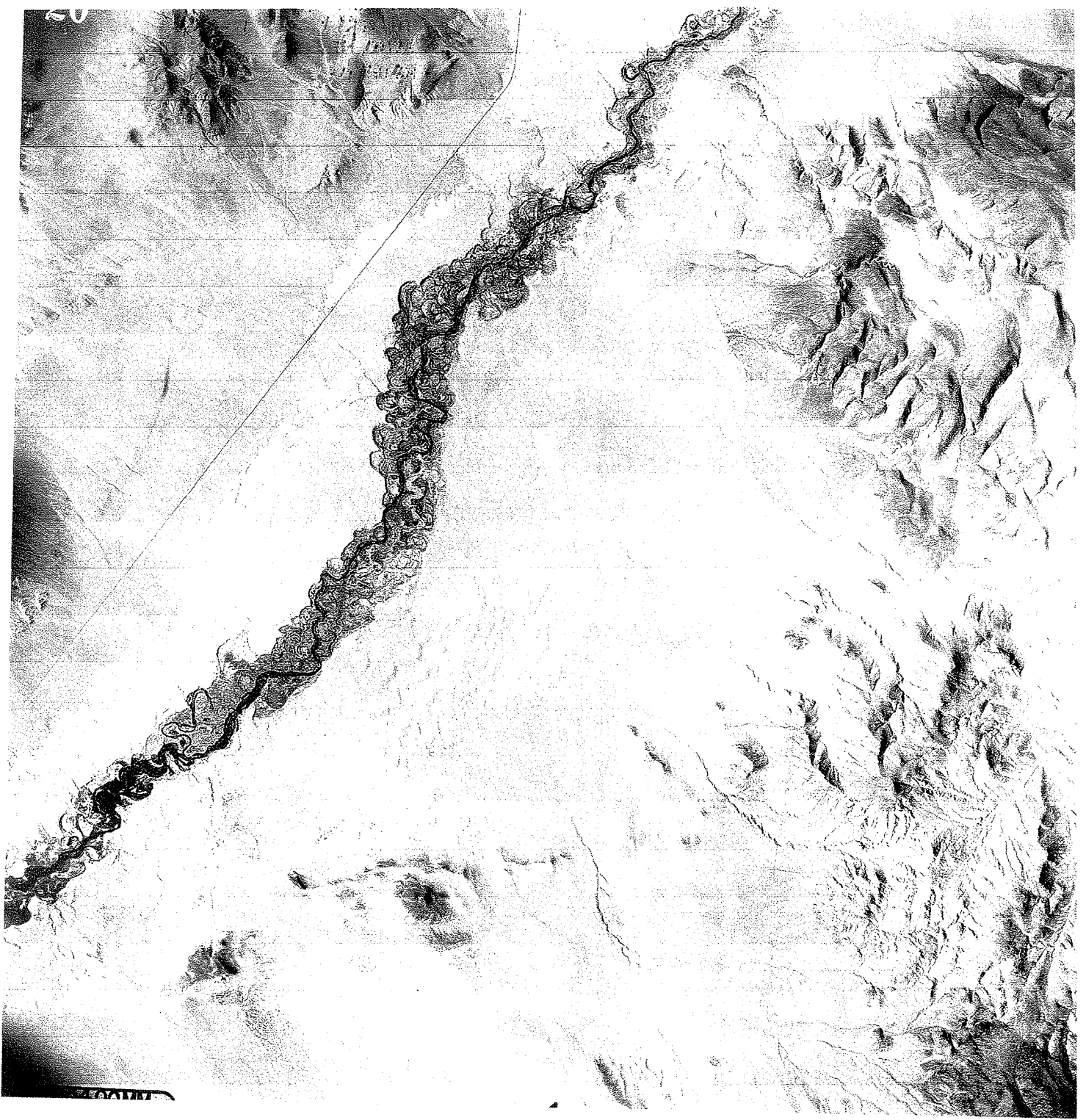
December 2001

Authorized Officer

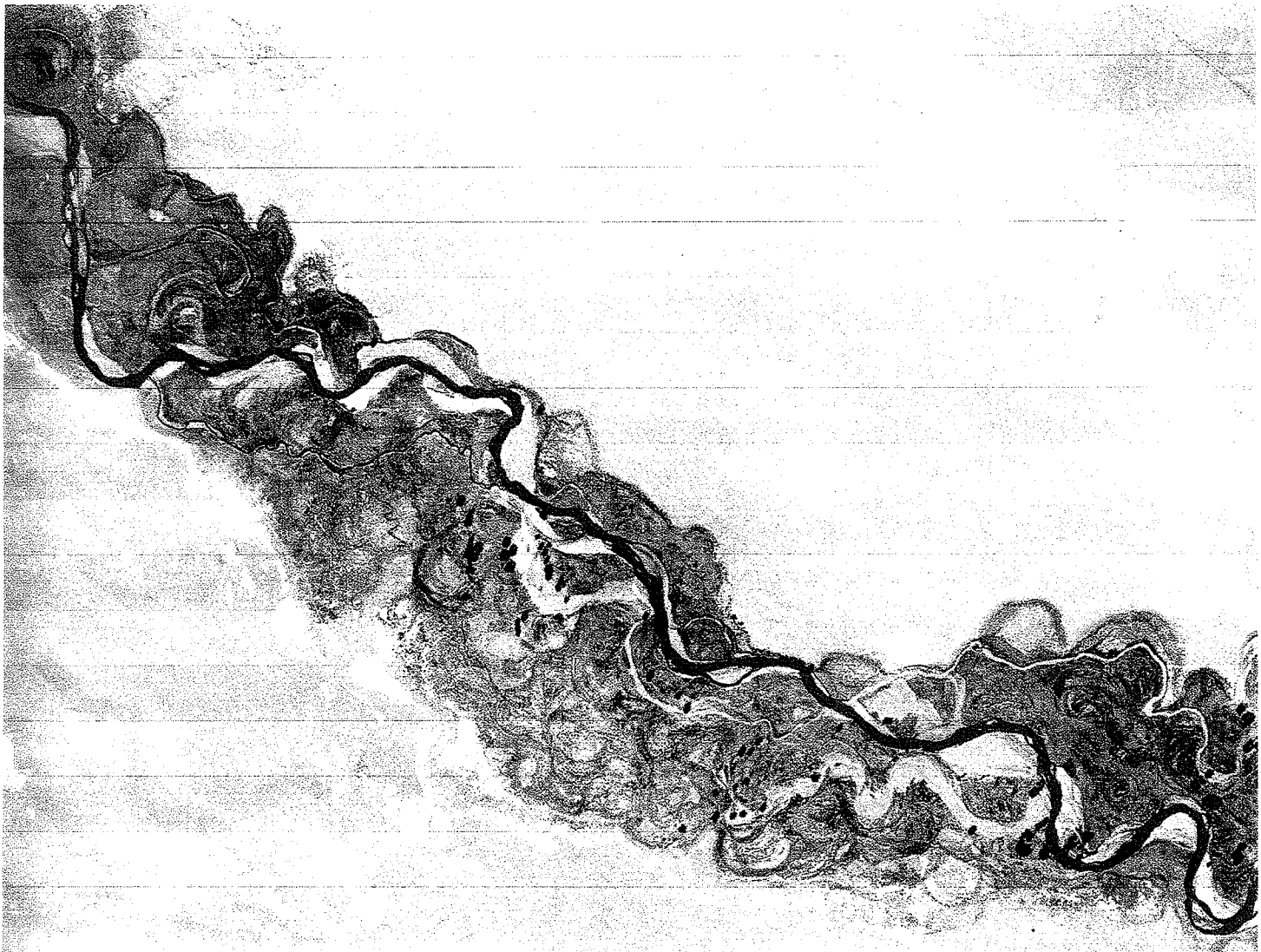


1938

Exhibit 2
Page 1 of 11



1938



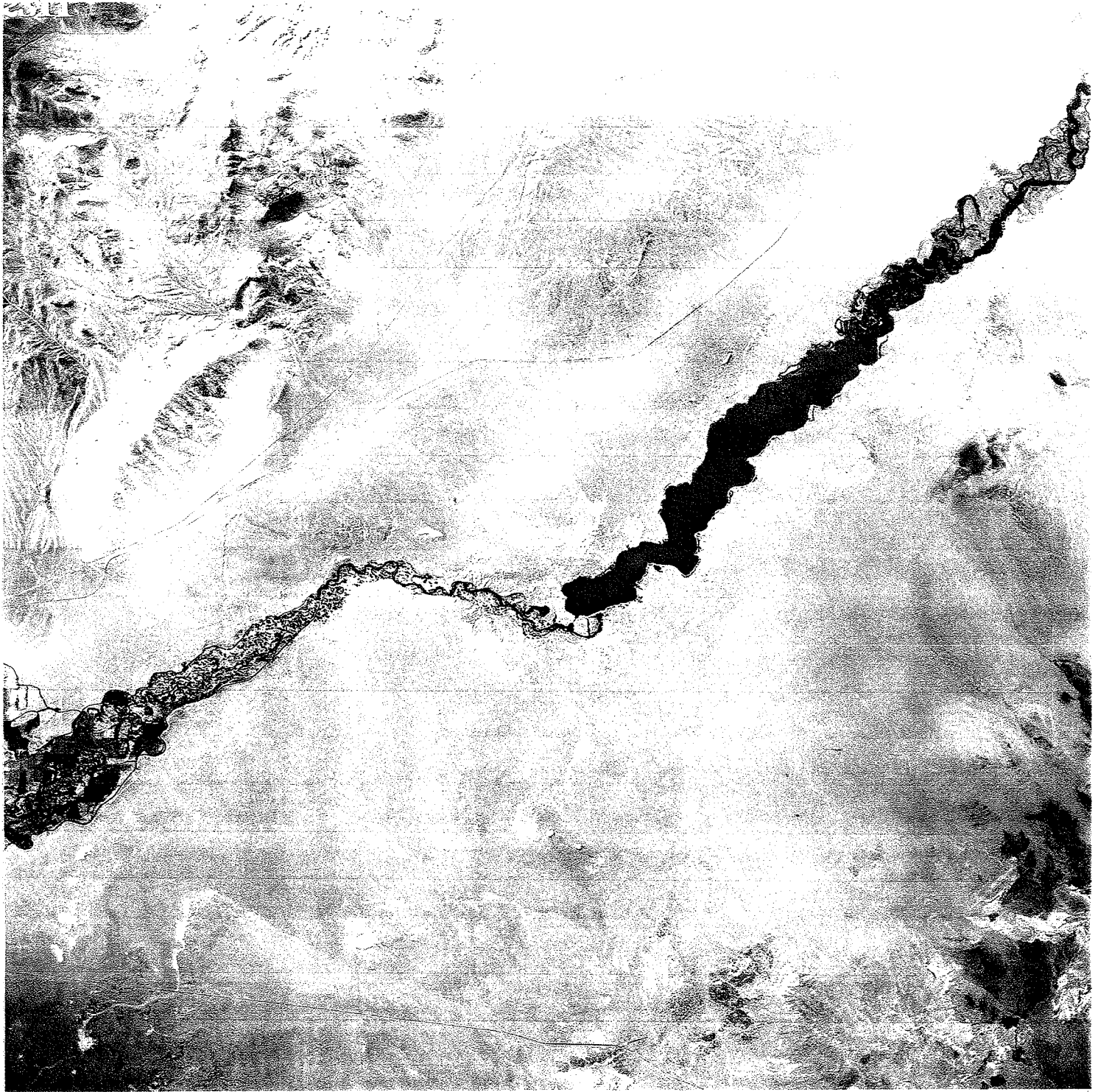
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10-12-38



1938

Exhibit 2
Page 4 of 11



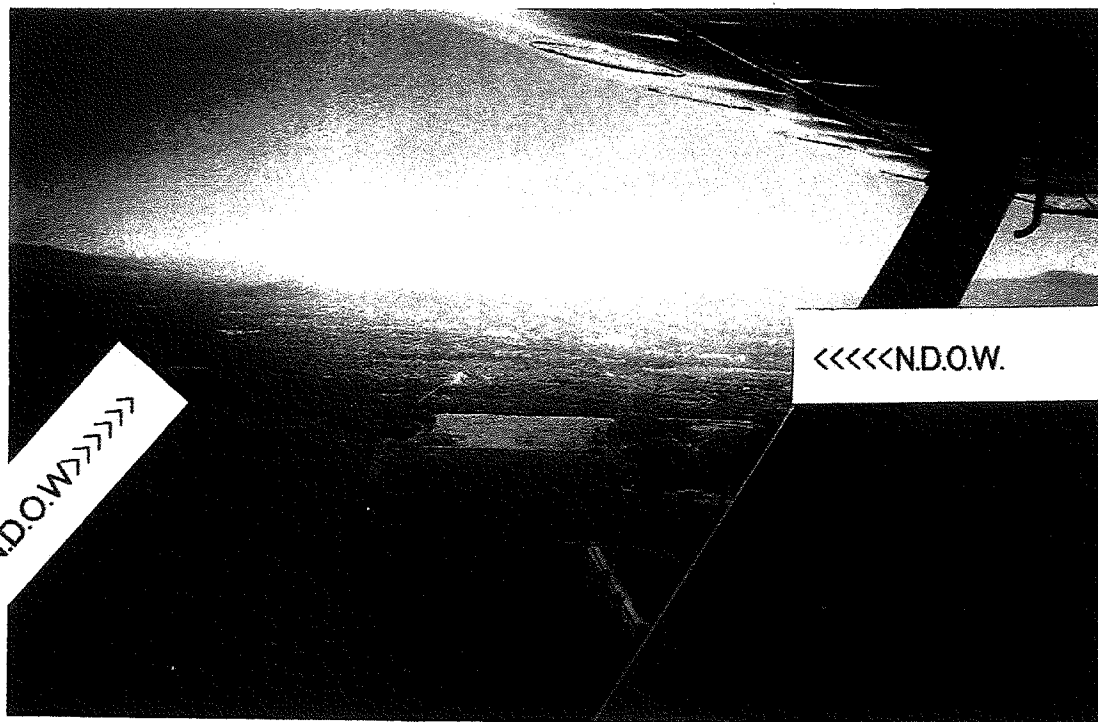
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SPPCO>>>

ND.O.W

ND.O.W

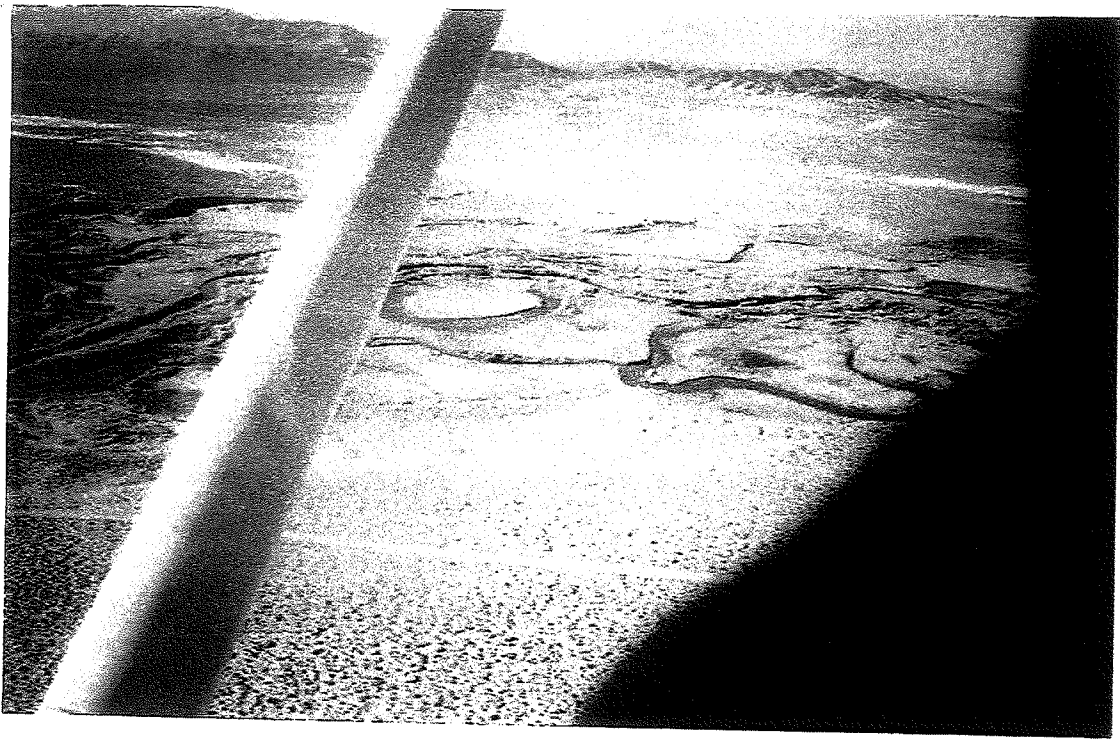


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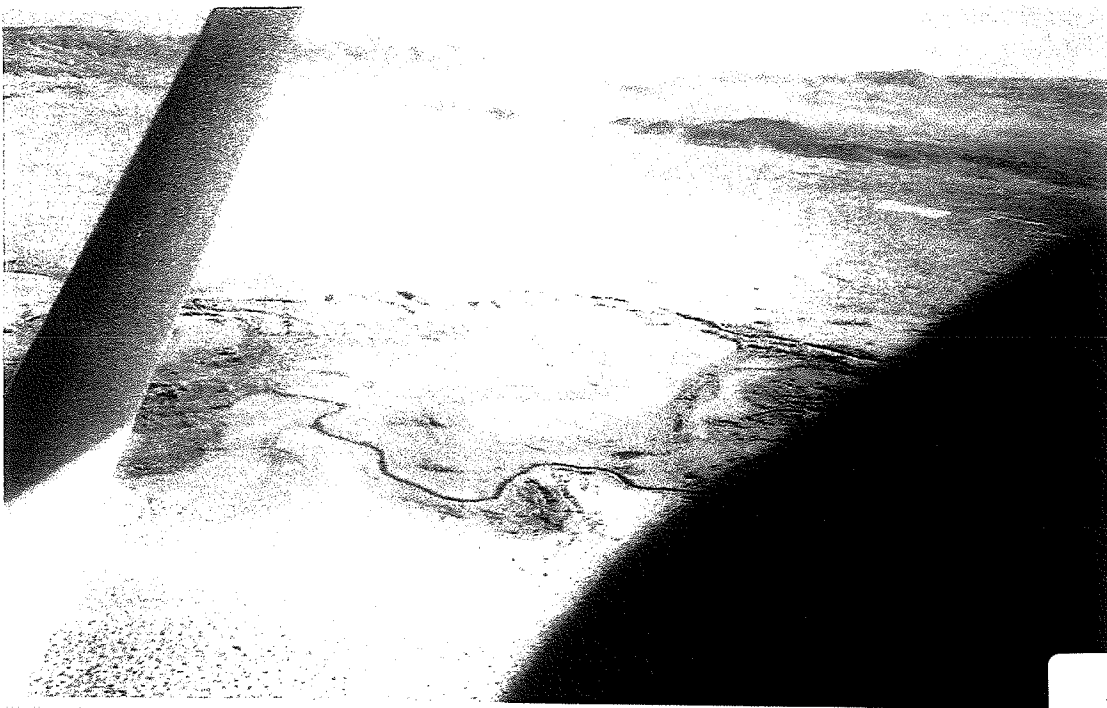
ND.O.W.

WABUSKA

2000



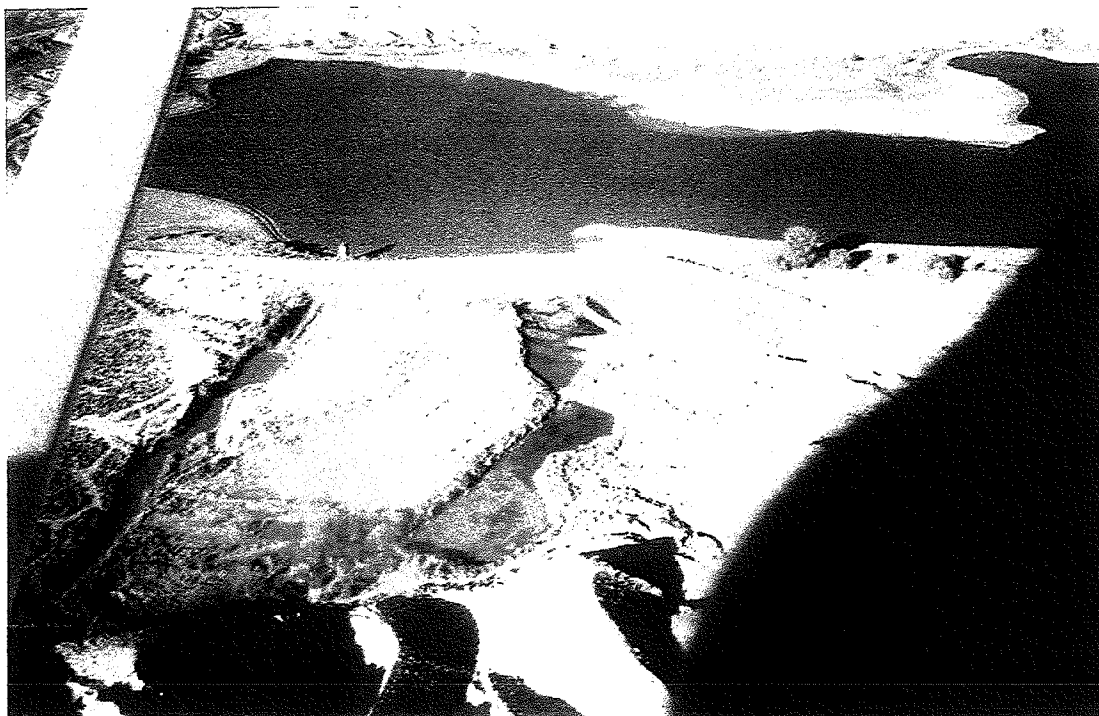
ABOVE WEBER BELOW STANLEY



2000

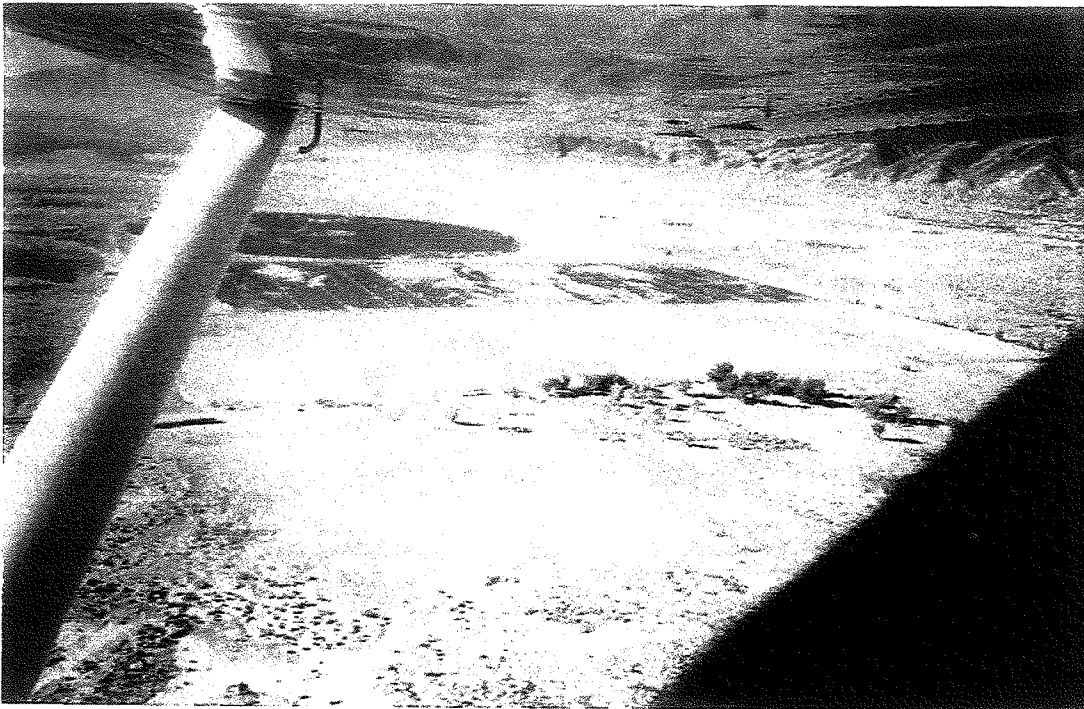


ABOVE WEBER RESERVOIR



WEBER RESERVOIR

2000



TRIBAL LAND—SCHURZ





BELOW SCHURZ



ENTRANCE TO WALKER LAKE

2000

PICTURES TAKEN NOVEMBER 2000

WABUSKA CHANNEL

WEIR—LOOKING WEST



ABOVE WEBER BELOW STANLE

2000

Exhibit 2
Page 11 of 11

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Robert Lyn Richmond

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 130 Summitt View Dr.

City, State, Zip: Walker Lake, NV. 89415 Date: 11-17-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Please save our lake.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

www.walkerlakecrusaders.com

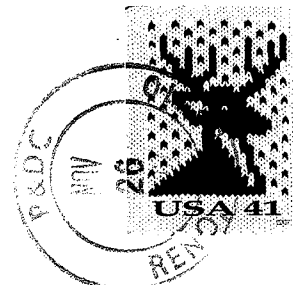


**KEEP
WALKER
WET**

PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

R.L. Richmond
130 Summit View
Walker Lake, NV.
89415



Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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NOV 27 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- ① Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.**
- ② Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.**
- ③ Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.**
- ④ Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.**
- ⑤ Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.**
- ⑥ A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- ⑦ Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- ⑧ Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: MICHAEL B ROLLAND

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 409 W COTTONWOOD DR

City, State, Zip: WALKER LAKE NV 89415 Date: 11-19-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

Handwriting lines for address and return address.

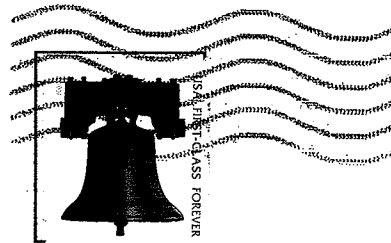
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

MICHAEL ROLLAND
409 W COTTED WOOD
WALKER LAKE
NV 89415

RENO NV 895

19 NOV 2007 PM 3 T



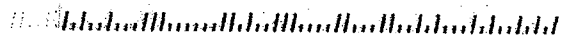
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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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89701+4066



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NOV 20 2007

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office**

December 5, 2007

Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street Room 320
Carson City, Nv. 89701

Dear Mrs. DeCarlo,

My husband and I have had some misgivings about writing to you regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisitions Program.

We are people of simple words and we were afraid that we could not convey our concerns regarding this matter.

We would appreciate it, if you would be able to take the time to drive to Sweetwater, and view our old ranch along the East Walker River that was sold to the American Land Conservancy in 1995. Immediately The Forest Service acquired it from the ALC. I understand that the Forest Service transferred the water allotted to the Ranch to Walker Lake. The Forest Service did not irrigate the ranch for a number of years. There was some complaints from the public about the condition of the ranch, so the Forest Service had some meetings, explaining their "plans". One such meeting was held at Bridgeport, California, however, we did not attend. We were informed by someone in attendance that when an individual asked Cathy Lusich, the Forest Service Representative at that time, why the ranch was in such terrible condition, her reply was "The former owners did not take care of it". This was told to us by numerous people, so I can only assume it was true what was said. I am telling you this, so you can understand why we are so concerned about this proposed water acquisition. Without water, the ranch is now mostly dead of any vegetation and the only place that there is any grass and weeds is by "the Bridge" which subs, and has some grass. The ranch consists of 2397 acres, and when it was under irrigation, we provided pasture and hay for over 550 head of cattle, and still left fields for the wildlife. We had fields of rye grain that hosted hundreds of deer and wild birds. Our alfalfa fields were full of hundreds of Sage grouse. We had close to 1500 quail in the lane near our house. We had abundant game, plus our cattle. It can only be described as lush and beautiful, and very productive.

I truly feel that you should observe what it is like when water is taken off of the land. The Forest Service tried a few years to put water back on the land on approx 250 acres, but, it was a small area for what they needed to do. It looks terrible, and you should see it. You REALLY need to see it. The wildlife have declined, and it is not a beautiful place any more.

I believe that if water is removed, even on part of the Mason, and Smith Valleys will be so detrimental to our underground water, that even the people that are not "willing sellers" will suffer greatly.

We understand that there are other alternatives to "save" Walker Lake, which, of course, is important, and we feel that those alternatives need to be explored more thoroughly so as not to impact our wonderful two Valleys.

Thank you for reading our letter, and I apologize for getting it written so close to the deadline.

Lester Rosaschi
Connie Rosaschi

Lester and Connie Rosaschi
2785 State Rt. 338
Wellington, Nevada 89444

775/545-7777

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DEC 11 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

From: "Marvin & Jean Rupe" <rupe ranch@tele-net.net>
To: <chunttDecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/9/2007 5:43:09 PM
Subject: enviromental impact Walker River Basin Project to Smith Valley

To: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation

From: Marvin and Jean Rupe
Pinenut Ranch
359 Lower Colony Road
Wellington, Nevada 89444

Re: Comments to the Walker River Basin Project/Impact to Smith Valley, Nevada

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo,

We are traveling and appreciate sending our comments to you via email. As ranch owners in Wellington, Smith Valley, Nv. we are hugely concerned about the negative environmental and economic impact on any loss of water to Smith and Mason Valleys. We think that the Walker River Basin Project, as Senator Reid would allow, would severely reduce the wildlife and habitats, ground water for domestic wells, and the entire economic and quality of life in our Smith and Mason Valleys. I cannot imagine how the wildlife habitats would be able to support the plants and animals that now exist. These animals and plants will simply disappear from the river corridor. Without the Walker River as we know it now, everything would change, ..our beautiful animals and plants, our economies, employment for all the all the communities that live here. Our ranch business and the production it provides as food and economic opportunities for the wider community will not be able to survive either. What are people thinking? Of course the environmental impact of removing any water would be disasterous!

We urge you to place a moratorium, at least, on this project until a plan can be made to seek alternatives. 1)try water leasing/banking 2) use nonacquisitonal plans such as taking water from the ammunition depot to the lake 3) try conservation efforts shared by ALL water users, from California, the downstream reservation and the Mount Grant watershed. What about desalination projects? If Smith and Mason Valleys shoulder the loss of water being discussed, our homes and business, wildlife and beautiful environments, will be devastated! Our lives and the well being of our environment will be lost!

We urge you to visit beautiful Smith Valley and see what we see. Our lives and the environment are all dependent on water! Please do not endorse any project that will take it all away. We need your help in protecting all natural plants and animals, the beautiful wild and scenic places where people work hard to feed the world and to live in harmony with nature. Please make sure that our voices are heard.

Respectfully,

Jean and Marvin Rupe
775-721-2134

From: "Paul Rusanowski" <paul.rusanowski@shipleygroup.com>
To: <chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/3/2007 9:24:31 AM
Subject: Scoping comments on the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program EIS

Gentlemen: I offer the following comments on the EIS addressing significant issues that should be considered during the EIS process.

1. Willing sellers should include all towns and cities within the Walker river Basin for the acquisition of secondary and tertiary treated sewage waste water. This resource should be directed towards enhancement of wildlife resources within the Walker River drainage and preservation of Walker Lake. By including them as willing sellers that water can be acquired for River use rather than sold into secondary or industrial uses that permanently remove that water source from the Walker River.
2. The use of acquired water should also be used for enhancement of WMA's and wetland areas within the Walker River drainage, rather than limited solely to Walker Lake. This is particularly important for the wetland complexes within the Mason Valley WMA and the extensive wetlands between Schurz and the head of Walker Lake.
3. The EIS analysis should include an analysis of depleted aquifers within the Walker River drainage. Moving water downriver is a complex issue when intercepted aquifers may redirect natural and enhanced river flows due to depletion from overuse. That information is critical to assessing the success of the intended water use as well as fully understanding impacts and likely outcomes from the proposed water rights acquisitions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment within this scoping process.
Please keep me on the contact list for this EIS.

Paul C. Rusanowski, Ph.D.
Regional Manager
The Shipley Group
1584 S 500 W, Ste 201
Woods Cross, UT 84010
888-270-2157 (Off)
888-270-2158 (fax)
801-499-7831 (cell)

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Stephen Rye

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 1368 Hwy 208

City, State, Zip: Yerington NV 89447 Date: 10-23-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

What is the objective of the WRB Acquisition
Program? 50,000 A.F may make very little
difference to the lake, yet will have a
significant upstream impact. Is there any
chance to allow private purchases in
conjunction with the federal acquisition?

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

How will feds prevent sellers from wanting to
sell because govt will offer premium price?
Perhaps you could include an incentive
for certain ag users to stay in
production.

Please review options other than
acquisition of water, and evaluate the
options when it doesn't work.

PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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